What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #170:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! I can't believe that we are already halfway through April. I'm starting to get Spring fever as I'm sure are others. It's been a tough year on so many levels for many of us. I hope that wherever you are a glimmer of hope is starting to peek through. On a personal note, I drove about an hour away a week ago to get my first Pfizer shot. My husband, younger son and I were able to get it in Gary, Indiana of all places. Illinois was about to open up for 16+ and we were feeling a bit impatient. Since Gary is so close and they were welcoming anyone we figured why not and took advantage of the drive-up FEMA location. While I'm starting to feel hopeful that some semblance of normal life will return soon, I also know that in many parts of the world Covid is raging and vaccines are slow to be dispensed. I do hope that I will be able to see some of you in August in Rosemont, IL for the ANA World's Fair of Money. My mother Ellen and I will be there to welcome you with hand sanitizer and social distancing! If you can't make it to the show then I'll "see" you virtually I'm sure.

This coming week and the following are some interesting auctions. There are also some great education programs available.

What's new at the ANS

I just attended a delightful *Long Table Talk* with executive director Gilles Bransbourg discussing the evolution of the French Franc which surprisingly is still the official currency of 25 states or autonomous territories. The talks, which take place every Friday at 1 p.m. EST are an incredible benefit that membership provides. If you need a reason to join the ANS this should be it! Every week the ANS staff works hard to bring interesting and educational talks to members. Last week was a dive into some Ptolemaic coins at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France from curator Julien Olivier. Next week numismatic author and scholar Oliver Hoover will discuss "Seleucid Ghost Stories". If you join then you simply need to click a link to attend these phenomenal discussions.

Aside from the weekly talks, the next monthly *Money Talks* will feature curator Peter Van Alfen in a discussion entitled: *Scenes from an Exposition: Columbus, Coins, Ships and Controversy in 1890s America*. This will take place on April 24 at 1 p.m. EST.

interesting interaction with fellow participants. I've taken part in the first one and so far have loved it. Dr. Peter Van Alfen is taking us through the world of Greek coinage and while some of it is a repetition for me I'm finding the experience really rewarding. The next set of lectures will be starting May 19 - June 30 on Roman coinage featuring Gilles Bransbourg and Lucia Carbone. You can sign up starting April 21 and I'm told that interest is already very high so get on it if you really want to participate!

What's new at the ANA

Did you know that it is *National Coin Week* April 18-24th? According to the ANA website, it is the 100th anniversary of the reintroduction of the Morgan dollar. Also, it is the 50th anniversary of the Eisenhower dollar. The theme of the NCW is Money, BIG AND BOLD. There are a host of free talks going on that week. Our own Doug Mudd will be doing one on April 23 at 5 p.m. MST entitled *Politics, Ego and Tragedy.* This presentation will discuss Gaius Julius Caesar and Marcus Junius Brutus, their larger than life personalities and ultimate downfall. The ANA is also offering a Gold membership for only $5 for this week so try to take advantage if you can.

Gorny & Mosch Auction 276 (April 19)

This auction is quickly coming up so if you need help get in touch soon. The following is a repeat from two weeks ago:

G&M has a few auctions but I will focus on the ancients portion of the sale. Auction 276 has a lovely offering of Greek and Roman coins from various private collections. It also offers a special collection from the collector Peter Weiß. I have received a few extra catalogs of this sale so get in touch soon if you want me to send you one. Please note however that catalogs are reserved for those that would like to use my representation services. If you want to take the auction on yourself and would like a catalog please visit https://auktionen.gmcoinart.de for more information and to register. The cover coin of the sale is a scarce drachm from Epidauros. It is also a SNG Lockett plate coin (not to be confused with the Glendining Lockett Sale from the 1950's). Lot 50 is an unsigned dekadrachm from Kimon. It comes originally from a Triton V auction (2002), lot 1227 and is accompanied by a NGC photo certificate. The obverse normally affected from die rust is reasonably clear and the reverse is nicely struck and centered (only losing one dolphin partially between 7-9h). Lot 279 is an attractive gold stater from Kyrene with a 1977 pedigree from the auction house of Kricheldorf. One of the more impressive lots is a large (61mm) gold bracteate made into jewelry with a running man on the obverse and the incuse on the reverse. Now that would be fun to wear to a party! I will be participating live in this auction so please get in touch for representation help. The auction does start at 10 a.m. in Germany so it will be very early for those wanting to participate in the U.S. Please keep this in mind when deciding whether to bid yourself. As I mentioned, G&M also has two further days of sales. Auction 277 focuses on German coinage in the morning session and other world coins in the afternoon. Auction 278 is an exclusive e-sale that has both ancient and world coinages.

CNG E490 (April 21)

This electronic sale has 1,051 lots and features coins from the Peter Merani and Arthur M. Fitts III collections. Over half of the auction (607 lots) comes from the late Mr. Merani's collection and spans from ancient Greek to modern coinage. There have been a few sales featuring this collection already. The coins in this sale are reasonably priced and decent collector quality. I spotted a few good buys there so worthwhile to check out.

Roman period and extending through Byzantine and beyond. Seals are incredibly difficult to get in good condition and some of these continue to be in excellent shape.

Some reached out to me after my last newsletter to say that the new dark background on the CNG site made the coins more difficult for viewing. If you are one that finds it distracting then just go onto the CNG site directly where the traditional white background is still offered as an alternative view. This feature isn't available if you view via Sixbid. I've noticed that Numisbids continues to show the white background so that is another way to avoid viewing on the dark background.

Peus Auction 428 (April 28-29)

The Frankfurt, Germany firm of Busso Peus Nachfolger is hosting their 428th auction over two days starting April 28. The first day will consist of ancient coins while day two has world coin offerings. Peus does a great job of offering quality collections with older pedigrees. The bidding can sometimes get hectic but prices ending hammer prices are typically very reasonable. I have several catalogs that arrived the other day so if you would like one please just reach out to me. I will be phone bidding for this auction so get in touch if you need representation help.

Coin of the Week

EGYPT, Alexandria. Hadrian. 117-138 AD. Dated RY 18 (AD 133/134)
Æ Drachm, 28.85g (35mm, 12h). VT KAIC TPAIAN • [AΔPIA]NOC CЄB, bareheaded bust left, slight drapery / Isis Pharia, holding billowing sail, sailing right before the Pharos of Alexandria, which is surmounted by a statue and two Tritons; L IH (date) above

Pedigree: From the Giovanni Maria Staffieri Collection, purchased from Renzo Canavesi, Sagno, 1996. Ex Renzo Canavesi Collection (Sagno); Dr. Piero Beretta Collection (Milan); Giovanni Dattari Collection, no. 7719

References: *Köln 1123; Dattari (Savio) 7719 (this coin); K&G 32.587; RPC III 5896/11 (this coin, illustrated on pl. 292); Emmett 1002.18 (R3); Staffieri, Alexandria In Nummis 72 (this coin).*

Grade: *EF, dark brown surfaces with touches of green. Wonderful artistic bust of Hadrian, and very rare compared to the typical laureate, draped, and cuirassed bust to the right*

Price: $11,500

re1060

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The coinage of Alexandria is rich in the meshing of two histories; the Egyptian and Roman. Egypt was a place of power in the time of the Pharaohs, legendary and awe-inspiring when one considers the Kingdoms that existed so long ago. Once Alexander the Great conquered the great city and upon his death the Ptolemies became the new government things changed. Under Ptolemy I the library of Alexandria came into existence. This library was considered the best in the known world. After a few impactful interactions with the Romans, the Egyptian culture, while still rich, was married to the Roman way of life.

virtues spread throughout the Greco-Roman world. She was a mother, wife and matron of the arts and magic. She was friends with the downtrodden as well as the wealthy. Everyone was dear to her. The Romans credited her with the invention of the sail. According to Pliny, Isis Pharia was from Pharos which had a bridge that connected her to Alexandria. This coin shows the Lighthouse of Alexandria just beyond her. The Lighthouse was one of the seven wonders of the world and was suggested to be built during the reign of Ptolemy I but completed by his son Ptolemy II in the 3rd century BC. It survived hundreds of years but was thought to be destroyed sometime in the 1400's.

These large bronze coins help to celebrate the existence of the Alexandria's Lighthouse and its mystical connection with the goddess. It is a lovely piece that the emperor Hadrian was paying tribute.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-empire/egypt-alexandria-hadrian-117-138-ad-dated-ry-18-ad-133134?rq=re1060

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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